

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

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AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL ZURICH

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 5514

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED IOGA MISSION OF YARN SPINNERS

REF: USDOC 9304

1. WHILE THE EMBASSY WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE THE PROPOSED
AMERICAN YARN SPINNERS MISSION VISIT TO BELGIUM, OUR INITIAL
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SURVEY OF THIS MARKET INDICATES THAT SALES PROSPECTS FOR U.S.

YARNS ARE NOT PROMISING.

2. FACED WITH RISING PRODUCTION COSTS WHICH IT IS FINDING DIFFICULT TO PASS ON TO CONSUMERS AS WELL AS RISING COMPETITION, THE BELGIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY IS INCREASINGLY SQUEEZED. THOUGH PRODUCTION ROSE 6.6 PERCENT DURING 1973, THE RATE OF INCREASE WAS LOWER THAN IN PRECEDING YEARS, WHILE IMPORTS DURING THE YEAR GREW MORE RAPIDLY THAN EXPORTS.

3. ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY SOURCES, THE MARKET FOR SPUN YARNS IS PRESENTLY SUPERSATURATED WITH THE KEENEST COMPETITION COMING FROM THE FAR EASTWN WHILE THE FRENCH ARE MAKING SOME INROADS BECAUSE OF CURRENT FRENCH FRANC RATE WHICH IS FAVORABLE TO EXPORTS TO BELGIUM. FOLLOWING ARE FOREIGN TRADE FIGURES FOR 1973:

A) COTTON YARNS (EXCLUDING YARNS READY TO RETAIL) (IN TONS)

EXPORTS: TOTAL-38,009; USA-15

IMPORTS: TOTAL-16,036; USA-2

ARTIFICIAL AND SYNTHETIC FIBERS YARNS CONTAINING COTTON (EXCLUDING YARNS READY TO RETAIL) (IN TONS)

EXPORTS: TOTAL-1,639; USA- (INKNOWN, VERY FEW)

IMPORTS: TOTAL-2,033; USA-(UNKNOWN, VERY FEW)

B) TOTAL IMPORTS OF COTTON AND ARTIFICIAL FIBERS YARNS

FROM C.E.E.: 50.5 PERCENT

"LOW PRICE" COUNTRIES: 46.4 PERCENT

OTHERS: 3.1 PERCENT

C) UNIVERSE OF MILLS

IN 1949: COMPANIES-54; SPINDLES-1,784,000; WORKMEN-17,397;

TOTAL PRODUCTION (IN TONS)-78,300; PRODUCTION PER WORKMAN (IN TONS)-4.5; PRODUCTION PER SPINDLE (IN KILOS)-44

IN 1973: COMPANIES-21; SPINDLES-900,000; WORKMEN-5,365;

TOTAL PRODUCTION (IN TONS)-82,450; PRODUCTION PER WORKMAN (IN TONS)-15.4; PRODUCTION PER SPINDLE(IN KILOS)-91.6

4. THERE ARE NO TRADE SHOWS SCHEDULED IN BELGIUM DURING THE OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 6 PERIOD. NOVEMBER 1 IS A BELGIAN HOLIDAY
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(ALL SAINTS DAY).

5. BASED ON OUR CURRENT INFORMATION, THE AMERICAN YARN SPINNERS ASSOCIATION MIGHT FIND A VISIT TO BELGIM USEFUL IN DEVELOPING FAMILIARITY WITH THE MARKET, BUT WE WOULD NOT AT THIS TIME RECOMMEND BELGIUM BEING INCLUDED IN THE MISSION'S ITINERARY IF THE PURPOSE IS DIRECT SALES.

6. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE BELGIAN ASSOCIATION OF COTTON AND RELATED FIBERS SPINNERS, MR. COLIN, THAT THE AMERICAN YARN SPINNERS ASSOCIATION IS IN DIRECT COMMUNICATION WITH THE BELGIAN ASSOCIATION WHICH IS SUPPLYING ADDITIONAL MARKET INFORMATION.
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